Read the last part of the play (from p. 33 Sam: I understand how you are feeling, Hally, but even so…). Note the typo: the last speech is Willie’s, not Sam’s.

Answer the following questions:

1. Why does Hally suddenly demand to be called “Master Harold”? Why does Sam say, “If you make me say it once, I’ll never call you anything else?” (p. 34). What is at stake here?
2. Why does Hally repeat the racist joke (p. 34-35)? How do you (as reader/audience) react to Sam’s response?
3. Sam’s two longest, most direct speeches happen toward the end of this play (p. 36). How and why does Fugard continue to use an earlier story and its larger metaphor (the kite)? How and why does Fugard stop using subtext and choose to have his characters DIRECTLY express their thoughts instead?
4. Why is the play’s final moment between Sam and Willie, after Hally leaves (p. 37) important? Why does Fugard have the play go back to ballroom dancing? Why does Fugard have Willie change his attitude toward Hilda?
5. Consider the song on p. 37. What are its dramatic and thematic functions? (Hint: Remember how the play opened.) Why does the play end this way?

BIG QUESTIONS FROM THE ENTIRE PLAY

These would be great essay-type questions for a unit test (HINT, HINT)

You don’t have to answer these…yet. But think about them!

1. To what degree are racial attitudes inherited? To what degree are they a choice? What evidence is there in *“Master Harold”…and the boys* to support your position?
2. To what degree does art/aesthetics/imagination have the power to transform an individual and society as a whole? How does *“Master Harold”…and the boys* explore this idea?
3. As the action of a play unfolds, dramatic tensions, thematic ideas and strong emotions are often produced by the playwright’s use of concealment and revelation. Discuss and interpret *“Master Harold”…and the boys* with this statement in mind.

Thematic topics to look for

These are not actually *themes* (see your literary terms for a definition of theme!) but are topics that the play comments on. Consider what Fugard has to say in *“Master Harold”…and the boys*  on each of the following topics:

* Racism (causes, effects, how to get past it…)
* Friendship and relationships
* The role of art in our lives (dance, stories, plays, crafts (like the building of kites))
* Dreams and hopes (“world without collisions”)
* Fathers and sons
* Integrity and greatness of character (men of magnitude)
* Maturity/growing up/ becoming an authentic adult